UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/751,572	01/05/2004	John Fox	F1105-20022	3589

3000 7590 12/09/2005

CAESAR, RIVISE, BERNSTEIN,
COHEN & POKOTILOW, LTD.
11TH FLOOR, SEVEN PENN CENTER
1635 MARKET STREET
PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103-2212

EXAMINER	
HOTALING, JOHN M	
ART UNIT	**PAPER NUMBER**
3714	

DATE MAILED: 12/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/751,572	FOX, JOHN	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	John M. Hotaling II	3714	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *07 October 2005*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-19* is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-19* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) Paper No(s)/Mail Date *2/25/04*.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-6, 8, 9 11-17, and 19 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hurst et al UK Patent Application GB 2,083,936 in view of Vancura US Patent 6,033,307. Hurst (2:1-35) discloses two sets of reels one on mechanical reels and then reproducing the mechanical reels on the video screen for a bonus condition and spinning the reels again and awarding prizes based on symbol combinations of the first and second displays. The claim limitation of at least one additional symbol could be met by Hurst in that an additional virtual symbol could be contained in the symbol set. However, the as examiner understands, the focus may be and additional symbol position. One would be motivated to find other slot machines with two displays of symbol sets in that Hurst discloses that the number and the nature of the features available on the video display unit is limited only by the ingenuity of the devisers of the features and the amount of and cost of the circuitry required. In an analogous invention to Vancura therein is disclosed in Column 5:1-30 that the reel displays could be mechanical or video and that any type of arrangement with respect to location of the reels could be used. Column 12:32-53 discloses that "While the above

represents a detailed disclosure of the third preferred embodiment of the present invention, it is to be expressly understood that many variations to the invention can be made without departing from the teachings thereof. For example, the primary and secondary machines 10 and 20 may utilize a wide variety of different symbols than those set forth above to accomplish the goals of the present invention. While the above embodiments use three reels with a predetermined number of symbols equal to twenty two, it is to be expressly understood that any number of reels could be utilized and that the number of predetermined symbols could vary. The number of reels for the primary machine could be varied to be different from the secondary machine as well as the determined number of symbols per reel in the primary and secondary machines." Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have a combination of symbols and positions between the two displays in order to have additional features provided to the player as suggested by the motivation provided above and the knowledge of an artisan of ordinary skill that fruit machines may have a plurality of reels, and symbols and be mechanical and/or video representations.

Claims 7, 10, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hurst et al UK Patent Application GB 2,083,936 in view of Vancura US Patent 6,033,307 as applied to the claims above, and further in view of Inoue US Patent 5,722,891. Hurst and Vancura disclose all of the claim limitations as disclosed above but lack in specifically stating use of multiple paylines. Instead Vancura discloses that the preferred embodiment has at least one payline (5:1-30). This statement suggests and provides motivation to look for a slot machine with two sets of reels with multiple

paylines. Inoue discloses throughout the reference and with particular attention to figure 5 two sets of reels with multiple paylines. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have a combination of symbols and positions and a plurality of paylines between the two displays in order to have additional features provided to the player as suggested by the motivation provided above and the knowledge of an artisan of ordinary skill that fruit machines may have a plurality of reels, paylines and symbols and be mechanical and/or video representations.

Citation of Pertinent Prior Art

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Demar et al '429, Suzuki '789, Mayeroff '894, and Yoseloff '969 disclose a slot machine with a bonus mode

Frohm et al '897 disclose a game machine with a bonus payout feature

Jones '047 discloses asupplementary display device

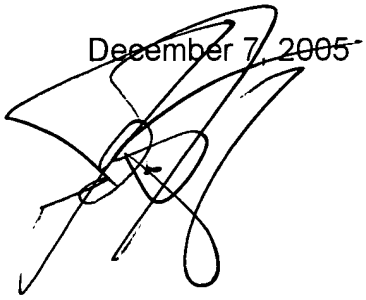
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to John M. Hotaling II whose telephone number is (571) 272 4437. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 7:30-6.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Xuan Thai can be reached on (571) 272 3507. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

December 7, 2005



JOHN M. HOTALING, II
PRIMARY EXAMINER